In order to maintain quality of wheat to be imported, the quality specifications for import of wheat were finalized by a team of officers from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation), Food Corporation of India (FCI) and this Department. While finalizing the quality specifications, the Uniform Specifications adopted for procurement of wheat within the country for targeted public distribution system (TPDS), PFA Act/Rules and phytosanitory requirement of the country were taken into consideration.

Statement

Details of wheat produced and procured for the Central Pool

1. Production of wheat

(in million tonnes)

Crop Year	2001-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
Production	69.68	72.77	65.76	72.15	68.64	71.54

* 3rd advance estimate

2. Procurement of wheat

(in lakh tonnes)

RMS	2001-02			2002-03			2004-04		
	FCI	State agencies	Total	FCI	State agencies	Total	FCI	State agencies	Total
Procurement	43.87	162.43	206.30	43.82	146.72	190.54	35.48	122.53	158.01

(in lakh tonnes)

RMS	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07*		
	FCI	State agencies	Total	FCI	State agencies	Total	FCI	State agencies	Total
Procurement	32.66	135.29	167.95	22.28	125.57	147.85	13.33	78.52	91.85

* as on 12.5.2006

Wheat import by private sector

†3699. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to give license to private sector also besides public sector for importing wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of Government agencies in the country at present which have the right to import wheat?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Import of wheat is at present, canalized through State Trading Enterprises. The Government authorized the State Trading Corporation (STC) to import 5 lakh tonnes of wheat in February, 2006 for the Southern States. In addition to this, in April, 2006 the Government has approved the import of 30 lakh tonnes of wheat by the STC to augment the buffer stocks.

Production and import of wheat

3700. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of wheat produced since 2001 and that procured by FCI, year-wise;

(b) the estimated quantity of wheat production in the current harvesting of Kharif season;

(c) the quantity of wheat targeted to be procured from farmers by Government during the current season and at what price and the quantity procured, so far;

(d) the details of buffer stock of wheat estimated to be available with Government month-wise till the next harvest *vis-a-vis* the volume stipulated under food-security norm;

(e) whether large quantity of wheat is contemplated to be imported from overseas; and

(f) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The details of wheat production since crop years 2000-01 and 2005-06 and the corresponding procurement by Government agencies in the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2001-02 to 2006-07 is given at Statement (*See* below)